

# Fort Leavenworth Wayside Tour

The oldest continuously active  
fort west of the Appalachian Mountains



Colonel Henry Leavenworth established Fort Leavenworth on May 8, 1827. The small fort was established to protect the western frontier, to keep peace among the Indian tribes resettled into this area and to provide escort on the newly opened Santa Fe Trail. Fort Leavenworth is a major historical site, and its residents are proud to share with visitors their part of our national military heritage. Fort Leavenworth is also an active military post, home of the Combined Arms Center.

During the Civil War Fort Leavenworth was an important command and control headquarters for the war in the far west as well as a major supply transshipment point for western supplies to the east.



The forerunner of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff was established on Fort Leavenworth in 1881. More than 85,000 U.S. and International officers have attended the Army's senior tactical college to become "Leavenworth graduates."



### Location:

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas is located in the northwest corner of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area, 15 miles north of Interstate 70 on US 73/Kansas Highway 7.


### Please Note:

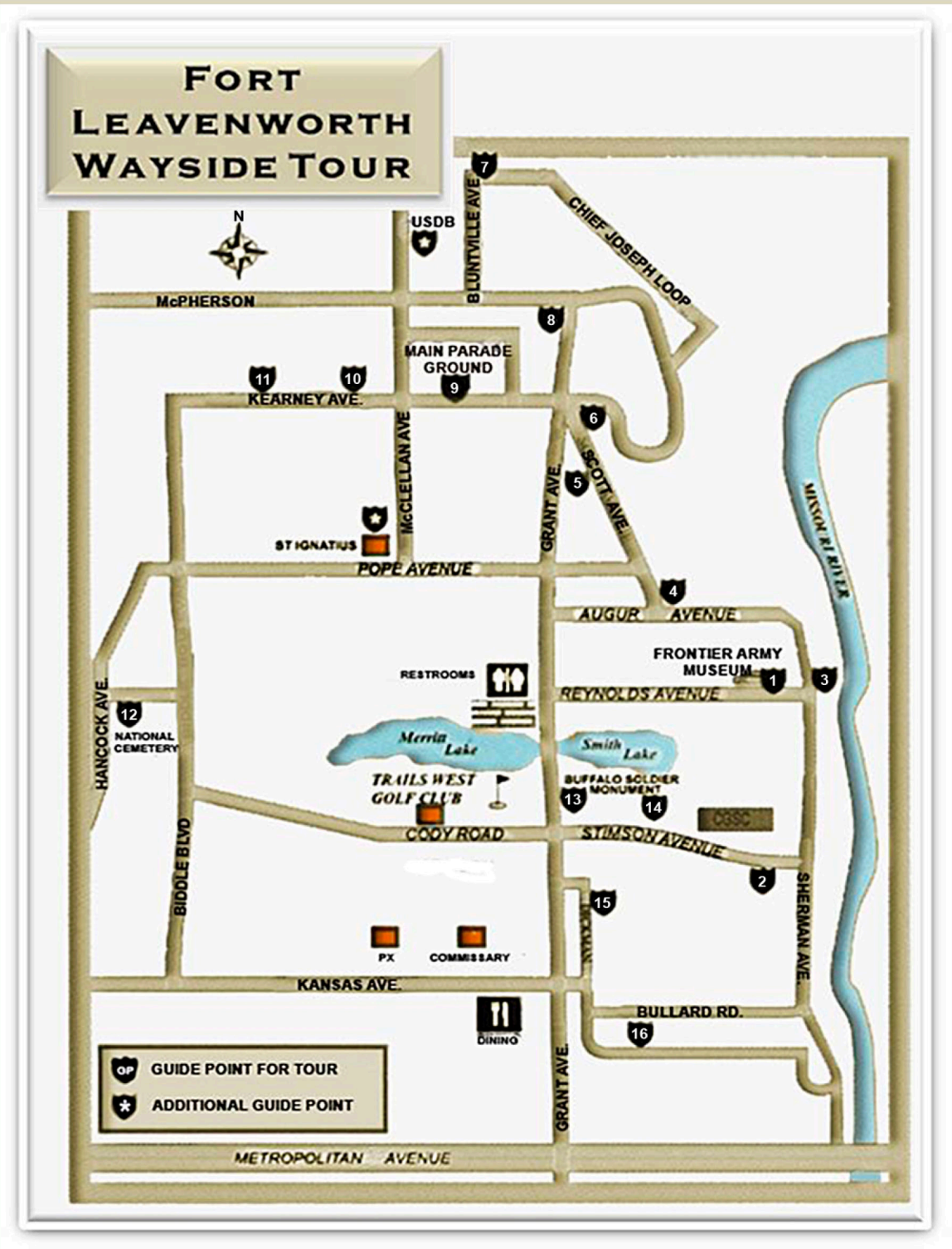
All vehicles are subject to search when entering the installation. All persons over 16 must have a photo ID available. Additionally, all vehicle tags must be current.

Self-guided tours begin at the Frontier Army Museum. Frontier Army Museum Hours Are: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday 10a.m. to 4p.m. Saturday. Closed Sundays and federal holidays.

Museum information: (913) 684-3191.



Wayside pedestals marked with this symbol [  ] along the tour route provide information at the press of a button.





**1. Queen of Frontier Posts Museum:**

The museum preserves and interprets artifacts that tell the story of the Frontier Army 1804-1917 and the story of Fort Leavenworth from 1827 to the present.

**2. Command and General Staff College (CGSC):**

CGSC is the Army’s senior tactical school. Its beginnings trace back to the School of Application for Cavalry and Infantry established here in 1881. The Lewis and Clark Center, dedicated in 2007, was named for leaders of the Corps of Discovery.

**3. The Missouri River, Highway to the West:**

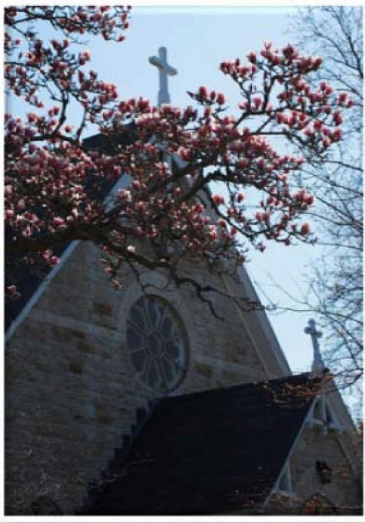
French cannons, Venture and Voyager, are two of four such Revolutionary War-era artillery pieces on post. Lewis and Clark passed these bluffs during their expedition. They camped north of this location July 2, 1804 near the ruins of the French Fort de Cavagnal. Currently, no remains can be found of that abandoned fort.

**4. Arsenal of the West:**

Sherman, Sheridan, Grant and Wagner Halls were built between 1859 and 1916. Sherman and Sheridan were originally used as ordnance storehouses. Officer and enlisted burial grounds were once in this area. The remains were moved to the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery (see site 12). The cannons overlooking the Missouri River are Civil War era, 12-pound Napoleons. The “Impetuous” on the grass triangle in front of the Bell Tower, is the oldest of the post’s four French cannons.

**5. Cantonment Leavenworth:**

This is the site of the original, temporary campsite established on May 8, 1827 by Col. Leavenworth. Originally, in this area, there was a wooden archway built in 1871 that was the



entrance to Fort Leavenworth. The large white house, called the Sutler’s House, was built in 1841 for the post sutler who supplied soldiers with amenities such as tobacco, writing paper and knives. Also located here are the Memorial Chapel and Grant’s statue. The old stone wall was restored in the early 1900’s by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**6. Trails West:**

The cut in the hillside is

one of the starting points of the Oregon and Santa Fe trails in Kansas. Large stone markers at the top and bottom of the hillside mark the trail the pioneers took nearly 200 years ago.

**7. Native American Prisoners of War:**

The Nez Perce Indians surrendered in Montana Territory in 1877 and were eventually brought to Fort Leavenworth as prisoners of war.

**8. First Kansas Territorial Capital, Military Prison:**

For more than 125 years the nation’s only maximum-security military prison was in the building behind the stone wall. The first temporary territorial capital in Kansas (Oct. 7-Nov. 24, 1854) once stood here.

**9. Main Parade Field:**

This ground was originally the center of the post. Indian encampments were located here during negotiations with federal authorities. Prominent architect E. V. Carr was brought from Syracuse, N.Y. to design and build two of the houses found here. Lt. Col. George Custer and his wife once lived in one of the Syracuse Houses when the 7th Cavalry was assigned here 1867-1869. The oldest continuously occupied residence in Kansas, the “Rookery (circa 1834),” is located here and once housed Gen. Douglas MacArthur, then a lieutenant and an instructor at the Engineer School at Fort Leavenworth.

**10. Battle Training Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow:**

When the building housed families, it was known as the “Beehive” because it was reserved for large military families and, from a distance, the building continually “buzzed” with noise. Currently it houses the National Simulation Center.

**11. West End Parade:**

This was the site of encampments of volunteers during the Mexican War, Civil War and World War I. The Civilian Military Training Camp and Civilian Conservation Corps also used this area.



**12. Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery:**

This was one of the first national cemeteries established by Abraham Lincoln in 1862. There are more than 23,000 graves representing every war since the War of 1812. The large cylindrical monument topped with an eagle near the flagpole marks the grave of Brevet Brig. Gen. Henry Leavenworth. Eight Medal of Honor recipients are buried here including Thomas Custer, the first man to receive two Medals of Honor.

**13. Buffalo Soldiers, Deploy as Skirmishers:**

Gen. Colin Powell dedicated this monument in 1992 to honor the African-American soldiers who served in the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments. The 10th Cavalry was organized at Fort Leavenworth in 1866.

**14. Constitution Grove:** Walnut trees dedicated to the 23 Soldier-Statesmen signers of the U.S. Constitution. Grove of the Regiments is a memorial to the units that served at Fort Leavenworth. Three pieces of the Berlin Wall were dedicated in 1998 as a monument to democracy.

**15. World Wars I and II Induction Centers:**

This center was a camp built on both sides of Grant Ave. to process and house the large numbers of troops that came to be inducted for World War I and World War II. The Civilian Military Training Camp and the Civilian Conservation Corps used the area during the interwar years.

**16. Corral Creek:**

The site was created in 1855 when the Army contracted civilian shippers to haul supplies. One of the contractors was Russell, Majors and Waddell that operated the largest overland freight operation in the west.



**Additional guide points**

**St. Ignatius Church:**  
A commemorative park replaces the original site of the church, which burned in 2001. It’s located on the corner of Pope and McClellan avenues.

**United States Disciplinary Barracks (USDB):**  
The USDB is the only maximum-security correctional facility in the Department of Defense, and also the oldest penal institution in continuous operation in the Federal system. Ongoing operations started in May 1875 at the U.S. Military Prison (now the USDB). The USDB was moved (see site 8) to a new location on post in September 2002.